

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Russet on 7/16/2009.

Amendment

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims

Please replace claim 4 with the claim below

4. A method of evaluating onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in a human subject, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether a gene coding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.:1 is present homozygously in the subject; and

evaluating the onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject; wherein the homozygous presence of the gene in the subject is indicative of an increased possibility of onset of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject.

Reasons for allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The scope of enablement rejection has been withdrawn in view of the declaration and arguments demonstrating that a gene coding for a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of

Art Unit: 1634

SEQ ID NO 1 is present homozygously in a subject is indicative of an increased onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis. The prior art of record does not teach the homozygous presence of a gene coding for a protein comprising SEQ ID NO 1 when homozygous in a human subject indicates an increased risk of rheumatoid arthritis.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN C. POHNERT whose telephone number is (571)272-3803. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30-4:00, every second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James (Doug) Schultz can be reached on 571-272-0763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1634

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Steven Pohnert

/JD Schultz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1635